

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION ASSET MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
March 7, 2007
Holiday Inn West
Lansing, Michigan

Meeting noticed in accordance with Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976.

Present

Carmine Palombo, Chairman
Robert Slattery, Vice-Chairman
David Bee, Member
Spencer Nebel, Member
Kirk Steudle, Member

Susan Mortel, Member
Steve Warren, Member
Rob Surber, Member
Bill McEntee, Member
Frank Kelley, Commission Advisor

Absent

Jerry Richards, Member
Howard Heidemann, Member

Staff Present

Rick Lilly- Bureau of Transportation Planning
Stacey Schafer- Bureau of Transportation Planning
Ron Vibbert- Bureau of Transportation Planning
Terry McNinch- Michigan Tech

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M.

Approval of February 7, 2007 Minutes - Rick Lilly

Mr. Slattery moved for the approval of the December minutes, supported by Mr. Nebel. Motion carried.

Correspondence and Announcements - Rick Lilly

Mr. Lilly spoke about the Conference. Council members need to let Mr. Lilly know if they are going to need a room for the Lansing Conference. We also need to know your meal choice for the U.P Conference; members should let Ms. Schafer know their preference.

The Call for Presentation deadline is coming up for the New Orleans National Conference. Mr. Lilly asked if the Council wished to submit a proposal. Mr. Lilly

suggested that proposals on the assessment of asset management and the Council after four years and one on the Investment Tool might make for good presentations. The deadline is March 15th for these presentations.

Mr. Nebel moved that the Council submit both the four year assessment and the investment tool presentations for the National Conference, supported by Mr. Warren. Motion carried.

2006 Quality Control – Gil Chesbro

Gil Chesbro gave a presentation to the Council on the 2006 quality control efforts with the PASER collection. Mr. Palombo indicated that there are many different directions that we can go with this. On the one hand, we are in the fourth year of data collection and one would expect that our quality control should be getting better and it is. So that is a good thing. Also, based on the additional training that we have done, it seems like we can explain the reason for the changes. Mr. Steudle indicated that we have to take credit for what we have learned. Mr. McEntee thinks that we have a lot of good data, and we just have to learn how to use it better than we currently are. Mr. Palombo thinks we are in good shape, as well. He wants to point out that we have a story to tell, and we need to develop that story.

2006 Exhibits for Annual Report – Rick Lilly

Mr. Lilly indicated that a number of graphs and exhibits had been presented to the Data Management Committee. There was considerable discussion over the graph showing the future condition of the federal aid system. Mr. Warren stated that what staff had done was good but that we needed to reflect the big drop in investments that MDOT is projecting. Mr. McEntee does not see a problem with the projections that have been made on the local side. They are not expected to change over the next several years except for inflation.

Mr. Nebel made a motion that Mr. Lilly construct a graph that shows both the effect of inflation on 2005 funding levels and combine it with a graph that shows the effect when debt service is subtracted from the investment levels, supported by Mr. Warren. Motion carried.

The Council continued to discuss the exhibits for the report and the messages they wanted to emphasize. Ms. Mortel stated that, throughout the report, where we are showing a chart, we need to make sure that the chart, diagram, or table has a title on it. The title needs to clearly explain what's in the chart and the assumptions should be included with the table. Ms. Mortel would also like to have the report set up so that major points are bulleted, rather than buried in the text.

Mr. Palombo stated that we do need to figure out the story that we want to tell so we are giving Mr. Lilly some idea of what he is suppose to include. Mr. Palombo asked the Council what they want to do. Ms. Mortel indicated that staff needs to have a clear understanding of what the Council wants to see in the report. Perhaps today we should settle on a few main bullets that staff can build the report around.

- Mr. Slattery stated one bullet could be that the system is deteriorating over time.
- Mr. Nebel and Ms. Mortel added a bullet stating that just due to inflation we are going to be losing considerable buying power and expect to see a decline in the system condition overtime. Mr. Slattery stated that if this is combined with decreases in investment it further exacerbates the problem.
- Ms. Mortel stated that it is a reduction in total program size.
- Mr. McEntee noted that inflation not only affects construction but also other areas such as routine maintenance and snow plowing.
- Ms. Mortel stated that we need to tell the story on how we have continued to make improvements in the quality of the data that is being collected.
- Mr. McEntee would like to know the impact of all of this on jobs.
- Ms. Mortel added a bullet that one of the reasons why the Council was created was to do advocacy of asset management so we could do training outreach. We should be reporting on how much training, who we have trained, and what we have trained them on.
- Ms. Mortel added a bullet dealing with the challenges associated with prediction/probabilities. Mr. Palombo indicated that Mr. Lilly should put something in the report about where we are in this process and what we are and are not able to do right now.

Mr. Palombo instructed Council members to direct any other important bullets to Mr. Lilly via e-mail. Mr. Lilly stated that has a good sense of what the Council is looking for in the report.

Mr. Palombo asked if we could look at the graphs on the bridges. Ms. Mortel stated that we need to parallel the information that was in roads with what is here with bridges. The Data Management Committee has already looked at these graphs and recommended that we bring them here today. Mr. Lilly stated that the graphs use the National Bridge Inventory data. It is not any different than what we have shown in the past but we have it broken down by state and local. The decision of the committee was to show state and local bridges separate because that's the way they are funded. This would give us the opportunity to talk about the local bridge fund. The first slide is for MDOT bridges. The next graph is for local, and it includes all roadways, not just federal aid. The decision was made to go ahead with all roadways and not break it out by federal aid bridges because we have the data so we might as well report it.

Mr. Palombo asked the Council for further discussion. Ms. Mortel asked when the Council is going to see the Draft Annual Report, Mr. Lilly replied that it should be available at end of the month. The presentation and comment will be at the April meeting. Mr. Palombo stated that this is going to be a very important document; things will be in there that we have never reported on before. Mr. Palombo stated it is important that we figure out the story that needs to be told.

Mr. McEntee indicated that one of the charges of the Council is to increase the use of asset management by agencies in managing their system. If we can, we would like to get some commentary in the report on the progress we have made in that arena. We are getting a number of good first hand stories that we can describe in the report.

Public Comment

There was no public comment

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm